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Dr. Martin Luther King said "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" I feel that when Dr. King said this, he didn't mean, "What things are you giving to others and what activities do you do so that others gain something?" He meant that you define yourself everyday with the way you act and the way you treat others. What impact do your everyday, ordinary actions have on others? What really counts is your everyday actions and how you treat others on a daily basis. Tangible things will go away, but treating people with kindness, equality, and acceptance is the greatest gift we can give.

You can "do" a million nice things, but if your intentions aren't right, you're not doing anything for anybody but yourself. When we do things for others, but our intentions are our own person gain, no one gains. The sense of giving we get is fake, and the sense of receiving is not genuine. Doing small things with others in mind is the greatest way to "give." And when we do nice things for others, we gain internal self confidence and pride, and we don't need others to see us do good things, because we don't need to impress others to be proud of who we are.

If I were given the chance to answer Dr. King, I would tell him that I try my hardest to be kind to everyone. I am proud of who I am because I know that when I do something, I do it with only the best intention in mind. And since I'm proud of who I am, I can be proud of others. I've always been told that I should be my own best friend, and

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in a weird way that answers Dr. King's question. Once we can be our own best friend, the smallest things we do are the greatest gifts to others. Once we can accept who we are, we are free to accept others. Accepting self and others is the greatest gift we can give but is also one of the simplest; we just have to find the part of us that is yearning for acceptance and approval and find it in ourselves to make that happen without the help of anyone else.

I truly feel that once I have accepted who I am, others can feel that and are more motivated to accept who they are. The greatest thing that we can do for others is give them simple gifts, as simple as the gift of acceptance. The best thing Dr. King did for others was give his motivation and wisdom, things that aren't tangible. We can all follow in his footsteps by giving others acceptance and our genuine kindness. What can we be doing for others? That's easy...give each other simple gifts.

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